

On the reconstruction site at the Pentagon, Michael Flocco wears a hard hat displaying stickers that read "Pentagon Renovation Program" and "Proud to be a Union sheet metal worker." Known to his fellow sheet-metal workers as a gregarious character, Michael is part of a one thousand person team of faithful Americans working to reconstruct the Pentagon in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

But the events that led Michael to assignment at the Pentagon set him apart from the workers around him. In fact, for Michael Flocco, installing duct-work for the heating and air conditioning systems in the Pentagon is not just work, it is part of a healing process and a wonderful tribute to his son Matthew.

Michael and Sheila Flocco raised Matthew, their only child, in Newark, Delaware. Matthew, a quiet and reflective young man, was liked and respected by all who knew him. Matthew joined the United States Navy after graduating from high school in 1998.

Fully committed to serving his country, Matthew rose to the top of his Navy class in meteorology and was quickly spotted by an admiral who gave him an important assignment at the Pentagon. As an Aerographer's Mate Second Class, Matthew performed important duties at the National Ice Center for the Departments of Defense and Transportation. He used his expertise as a weather analyst to safeguard ships traveling in ice-covered waters.

But in a tragic twist of fate, this young American's bright future was cut short on September 11th, 2001, during the terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Matthew was only 21 years old.

When the news of their only son's death reached Sheila and Michael Flocco, they were devastated.

But Michael, a third generation sheet metal worker, knew exactly what he had to do. Working on the construction of the new courthouse in Wilmington, Michael approached his superiors and requested a transfer to the Pentagon rebuilding project.

In January 2002, Michael pulled his 24-foot recreational vehicle into a Maryland R.V. park. Now, the man who lost his son less than ten months ago rises at 4:00 a.m. every day, throws on his brown jacket with "Floc," his nickname, scrawled in permanent marker on the back, and heads to work with one thing in mind. Michael Flocco is determined to, as he says, "fill that hole in the wall and fill that hole in my heart."

Michael plans to continue working on the rebuilding project through September 11th, 2002, a date that marks the one year anniversary of his son's death, as well as a formal reopening ceremony of the Pentagon. Michael Flocco's response to his son's death is an inspiration to every American.

Today we are here to pay tribute to a son and his father; We are here to recognize an outstanding example of dedication to the United States of America; We are here to honor the best character of Americans—refusal to be defeated in the face of tremendous adversity.

We are here today to dedicate this field, which forever will be a symbol of Matthew's love for baseball and love for America.

THE ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY'S 27TH ANNUAL CONGRESS

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, in 2002, more than 1.2 million Americans will hear the words "You have cancer." More than 500,000 Americans will lose their battle with this terrible disease. Oncology nurses are on the front lines in the battle against cancer. Every day, they see the pain and suffering caused by cancer. They understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that cancer patients face throughout their life.

The Oncology Nursing Society is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world with more than 30,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. There are three chapters of the ONS in my home state of Mississippi located in Brandon, Ocean Springs, and Tupelo. These chapters provide important benefits and services to oncology nurses throughout Mississippi.

This week more than 5,000 oncology nurses from around the country have traveled to Washington, DC, to attend the Oncology Nursing Society's 27th Annual Congress. This year's theme is aptly titled "The Many Faces of Oncology Nursing." The attendees will increase their knowledge of the newest cancer treatments, learn the latest developments in cancer nursing research, and enhance their clinical skills. In addition, approximately 550 of these nurses, representing 49 states, will come to Capitol Hill to discuss issues of concern to oncology nurses. I encourage my colleagues to meet with these nurses and to listen to the expert advice of these expert health care professionals.

I commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 27 years and I thank the Society's members for their ongoing commitment to improving the quality of care for all cancer patients and their families.

IN COMMEMORATION OF SMITHFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in commemoration of Smithfield, North Carolina. On April 23, 2002 Smithfield will celebrate its 225th Birthday. Smithfield is located in the heart of Johnston County in the 2nd Congressional District of North Carolina. Established on the banks of the Neuse River as the seat of Johnston County Government in 1777, it is one of the oldest towns in the United States.

Though Smithfield is a town with just over 11,000 residents, the residents carry themselves with a pride representative of the entire state of North Carolina. It is a community that supports traditional family values, southern hospitality and that offers a high quality of life. Into this inviting environment has come a myriad of large and small businesses, drawn by a dedication to hard work. The pride of the community is shown in the excellence of its school

system—in its facilities, educators and students. An example of this excellence is Johnston Community College housed in Smithfield.

Smithfield is known worldwide for its ham and yams, and each year the town celebrates during the Ham & Yam Festival. The festival is held the first weekend in May each year, and features arts, crafts, commercial vendors, a carnival, dancing and youth activities. Smithfield's heritage is rich in Civil War and agricultural history.

The strong work ethic and dedication of the people of Smithfield has made Johnston County the number two county in the nation in growing flue-cured tobacco. Not only does Smithfield raise great crops but also great individuals. Among Smithfield's finest is Actress Ava Gardner. Ava Gardner grew up near Smithfield and is buried in Sunset Memorial Park. Today she is honored in a local museum celebrating her Hollywood career with more than 100,000 items.

Mr. Speaker in closing I will like to send my best wishes and gratitude to the people of Smithfield, North Carolina in wishing them a Very Happy Birthday! I know that our nation is stronger today because of their contributions.

MARY HILAND HONORED FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to recognize the achievements of Mary Hiland, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance For Community Care of Santa Clara County. We would like to recognize Ms. Hiland's extraordinary and tireless efforts to the people of Santa Clara County and thank her for her 25 years of service in the nonprofit mental health field.

Mary Hiland served as President/CEO for the Alliance For Community Care from January 1977 to March 2002. One of the largest nonprofit mental health agencies in Silicon Valley, ALLIANCE was formed on January 1, 1997, through the merger of four nonprofit agencies. Under Ms. Hiland's leadership, the resulting new organization grew significantly. Today, ALLIANCE serves over 4,000 youth, adults and older adults affected by mental illness through a comprehensive array of in-home, crisis residential, vocational, outpatient treatment and rehabilitation programs.

Ms. Hiland's career in the nonprofit mental health field began after she graduated from San Jose State University with both a Masters degree in Social Work and Public Administration. In 1986, she joined the faculty of SISU College of Social Work part-time and taught courses in public policy and management. Her community service includes serving on several Boards of Directors, task forces, and participation in numerous committees. Ms. Hiland is past president both of the Association of Mental Health Contract Agencies and the Association of United Way Agencies. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the California Council of community Mental Health